

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10

PA-02 PRS-01 NRC-07 /125 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2756
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5743

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IS

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWER AGREEMENT

1. HA'ARETZ OF AUGUST 20 CARRIED FOLLOWING STORY FROM ITS
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MARGALIT.

2. BEGIN TEXT: U.S. SETS CONDITIONS FOR SALE OF NUCLEAR
REACTOR TO ISRAEL. ISRAEL HAS BEEN COMPELLED TO SUBMIT
TO THE UNITED STATES A SECRET LETTER SAYING THAT SHE
INTENDED TO SET UP THE ATOMIC REACTOR TO BE SOLD TO HER
IN THE NITZANIM AREA. THE CONTENTS AND FORMULATION OF THE
LETTER TRANSMITTED TO THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION A SHORT WHILE
AGO ARE A COMPROMISE REACHED WITH THE AMERICANS DURING
NEGOTIATIONS AFTER WASHINGTON HAD MADE A DEMAND UNPRECEDENTED
OF ITS KIND, THAT ISRAEL PUBLICLY UNDERTAKE, WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE REACTORS AGREEMENT, THAT IT WOULD BUILD
THEM WITHIN THE GREEN LINE CONFINES.

3. THE AMERICAN DEMAND WAS FIRM AND UNEQUIVOCAL AND
TOOK THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON BY SURPRISE.

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THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDED THAT ISRAEL ACQUIESCE, POINTING

OUT THAT A REFUSAL MAY DELAY THE REACTORS DEAL FOR A LONG TIME. SECRET DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON THE MATTER IN JERUSALEM AND IT WAS DECIDED TO REJECT THE AMERICAN DEMAND FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS:

--ACQUIESCENCE TO THE DEMAND WOULD AMOUNT TO A FIRST ISRAELI RECOGNITION OF THE 1967 BORDERS PRINCIPLE. THAT IS WHAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION INTENDED.

--A PUBLISHED COMMITMENT WOULD STIR UP A PUBLIC STORM IN ISRAEL AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TROUBLE EXPLAINING TO THE KNESSET THE REASONS FOR ITS CONCESSIONS.

--THE U.S. IS ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE THE PARALLEL NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT AND WOULD THEREFORE PREFER NOT TO HOLD UP THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL, WHICH MUST END SIMULTANEOUSLY.

--THE PROJECT WILL TAKE QUITE A NUMBER OF YEARS TO BUILD AND THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR AN EXPLICIT PUBLIC UNDERTAKING IN THIS MATTER.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO THESE POINTS, IT WAS DECIDED TO REJECT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION AND TO INSTRUCT IT TO ENTER COMPROMISE NEGOTIATIONS. AT THIS POINT IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE UNDERTAKING WOULD NOT BE PUBLIC NOR WOULD IT BE INCLUDED IN AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF REACTORS, BUT WOULD BE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A CONFIDENTIAL LETTER OF INTENT.

5. AMERICAN ELEMENTS BELIEVE THAT THE FORMULA SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES IS SATISFACTORY. END TEXT.
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